

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A solar cell connector, comprising:

a ~~metallie~~ metal strip;

first and second connection areas formed in said ~~metallie~~ metal strip, said connection areas comprising tabs for connection to respective solar cells; and

a centrally situated compensation section formed in said ~~metallie~~ metal strip integrally with and intermediate said connection areas; wherein,

the compensation section comprises a single central opening in said ~~metallie~~ metal strip;

said central opening is intermediate said first and second connection areas, and is delimited by a surrounding marginal area of said ~~metallie~~ metal strip; and

the ~~marginal area is~~ compensation section and the central opening ~~are~~ one of round, oval, and polygonal;

whereby said first and second connection areas and said compensation section comprise a unitary continuous segment of said ~~metallie~~ metal strip.

Claims 2.-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) Solar cell connector according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~connector~~ metal strip comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a precious metal and a conductive material with a precious-metal coating.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) Solar cell connector according to Claim 12, wherein said precious metal is selected from the group consisting of

gold and silver.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) Solar cell connector according to Claim 12, wherein the conductive material of the connector comprises a material selected from the group consisting of i) molybdenum and ii) another element of the sixth subgroup of the periodic table of elements.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) Solar cell connector according to Claim 1, wherein the solar cell connector is produced by stamping, etching or eroding.

Claims 18.-30. (Cancelled)

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The solar cell connector according to Claim 1, wherein the marginal area of said ~~metallie~~ metal strip is formed as a single monolithic portion of said ~~metallie~~ metal strip.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) The solar cell connector according to Claim 31, wherein said tabs project substantially normal to said marginal area of said ~~metallie~~ metal strip.